

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Christian MERKLE et al.  
Title: COMPONENT AND USE THEREOF AND METHOD FOR THE  
PRODUCTION THEREOF  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 04/06/2006  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: